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SPIRIT OF KANSAS

A Journal of Home and Household.

VOLUME I. LAWRENCE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 1872. NUMBER 25.

LAWRENCE

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Contributed Articles.

U. G. R. R.
NUMBER FOUR.
BY JAMES HANWAY.

If we read aright the history of the world, we shall find that mankind in general resort to similar plans or expedients to throw off or undermine the authority which has been established to enforce a principle which is repugnant to the convictions of a respectable minority of the people. In monarchical countries the law assumes to be the guardian of private judgment; democratic principles are held to be anarchical and revolutionary; schisms of religion the offspring of fanaticism, irreligion and unbelief. To protect monarchy and its numerous retainers and supporters it becomes necessary to enforce its authority by arbitrary enactments. These come in conflict with the spirit of the age; men more bold and reckless than others violate its provisions by publishing their views and opinions which are antagonistic to the established order of things. Fines and imprisonment follow. Martyrdom has its rewards for those who are willing to bear its pains and penalties. Wm. Hone, the publisher, made his fortune through being incarcerated in the Old Bailey prison for publishing "sedition." Leigh Hunt, while editing the "Examiner," served a season in the same prison for a like offense; but he came out a glorified martyr. Men who had disagreed with his views sympathized with him in his sufferings, and the government which had incarcerated him in a felon's cell gave him a pension in his old age. Mankind may desire to shift the burden, to throw off the iron hand which oppresses them, but they will resort to many plans and form many combinations before they will voluntarily place themselves in a position which is certain to crush them. Secret political organizations are formed for the promulgation of opinions which established law declares to be seditious. Men unite for mutual strength to devise means to cast off the shackles with which arbitrary power has fettered their minds. Hence during the last century throughout France, Germany and Italy, the order known as the "Illuminati" sprung into existence, and by its well organized arrangement weakened the power of every throne in Europe, overthrew the French monarch, and established a Republic upon the throne of France. The French Revolution of 1794 was the sudden outbreak of public opinion, which had been pent up for years, and when it found utterance it broke out with volcanic violence and became uncontrollable, and its rapid and ever varied changes engulfed both friend and foe in one common grave. As the volcanoes are the outlets of the combustible matter which is generated in the bowels of the earth, so it may be said that the public press, free and untrammelled, is the safety valve to these tremendous ebullitions of public opinion which occasionally convulse the old established governments of Europe. Ignorance may be fettered and controlled by the bayonet, but intelligence by a law which is irresistible, will not be crushed and trammelled by brute force; it will not bear restraint; the more you attempt to impede its march—the higher the barrier is erected to check its onward career—the greater will be the convulsion when all obstructions are finally overcome. Bastiles and inquisitions, bogus laws and party resolutions, may retard the promulgation of opinion, but they cannot suppress it. Arbitrary laws to govern and control public opinion are wretched expedients to resort to and are evidences of a bad cause. In a free government where liberty of speech is accorded to all alike, organizations of a formidable character can never become common, because public opinion finds vent, and abuses, if they exist, are exposed and abolished. When slavery was at its zenith in the South, various efforts were made to suppress free inquiry. I will give a few instances illustrating the character of these efforts at suppression: At Alton, Illinois, Mr. Lovejoy was murdered and his press cast into the Missouri river by the citizens of an adjoining State. "The Religious Telescope" was the title of a mild anti-slavery paper published at Circleville, Ohio. It was the organ of the church of the "United Brethren in Christ." The brethren who resided in Virginia and wished to read their official organ, were prevented from doing so; for the postmaster at Glenville and other places publicly burned the

"Telescope" by authority of a State law as an "incendiary publication." Thus the *auto da fe* was established in Virginia. Cassius M. Clay's "True American," at Lexington, was taken possession of by a mob and shipped out of the State. While a mob in the free city of Cincinnati destroyed Mr. Burney's printing office by scattering the material and fixtures in the street and burning them. These violations of private rights and destruction of private property to appease the demands of slavery, were of common occurrence in the early days of the anti-slavery excitement. Slavery being upheld by brute force and arbitrary laws, Judge Lynch—clothed with the jacobinical robes of his office—was installed as chief arbiter, while the civil magistrate—whose robes were once lined with ermine, emblematical of purity—was dispensed with. Mobs have become less frequent in our country since the abolition of slavery.

Although our government recognized the freedom of conscience and the right of publication of opinion, it is notorious that during a great portion of our history as a nation, it has been more theoretical than practical. During the long and bloody reign of slavery, the claws of the carnivorous monster were only rasped: they had been shorn of their ancestral keenness; but the spirit and will was the same. We talk much about liberty, and toleration of opinion; but what use is it to invite argument when we in the next breath declare to our antagonist that if he dares to argue contrary to our opinions, we will treat him as a foe—refuse to deal with him—cast him out of society—brand him as a traitor and hold him up to popular execration? Is this the spirit of democracy or that of liberty? Is this the boasted freedom of inquiry of which we are incessantly ranting? Is it toleration? Is it the spirit of patriotism? No, my friends; it is the subterfuge of men who are afraid of freedom.
LANE, Franklin County.

YOUR RIGHTS AND MINE.

A convict when questioned as to what brought him to prison, said it was because at college he had not been able to distinguish between "mine" and "thine." If all who fail at this point were imprisoned, it would require more than one appropriation a year to enlarge the penitentiary. But there are other rights besides those of property that exercise this talent of distinction. Suppose, for short, we say they are social and civil. I have travelled very little, yet several times while travelling on public highways I have been disgusted and sickened by fellow-travellers. I remember once in a two hours' ride on a Kansas railway being made so sick that I could not sit up, nor hold my head up, for twenty-four hours. Other times, on railroads, in stages, at hotels, I have been made quite sick, and have had to walk out on the street in the rain and mud and cold to get away from the sickening influence.

Now, MR. SPIRIT, have I any rights that you are bound to respect? Or do your rights outweigh mine so much that you can puff your cigar smoke right into my face and keep at it till I vomit, get my nerves all loosened and have to go away to get rid of the cause? I know that many smokers think it's all squeamishness in people to say that tobacco smoke is disagreeable; but, sir, if they only remember the sensations of earlier days when first they tried the weed, they would have more respect for those who have not learned. I can taste a tobacco smoker's breath across a fifteen foot room any time. A funny little incident occurred in Southern Kansas. A little Frenchman is preaching on a circuit—a sharp, funny little fellow,—and one night at a school house after preaching he met a brother who had set well back in the room, and who was a great smoker. "Well, brother H.," said the preacher, "I could appreciate your presence to-night." "Why, how so?" asked the good brother. "Oh, I could taste you all the time I was preaching." Any one who has the faculty can "taste" a smoker across the room.

Now my proposition as to your rights and mine is that I have the privilege of carrying a skunk bottle and opening it whenever and wherever I feel like enjoying a smell. It is said to be healthy. It do'n't make me sick—at least not nearly so quick as tobacco,—and it kills the tobacco scent as "dead as a door nail." If it sickens you, who cares? It's

my right to enjoy whatever I please. I have been cursed, and laughed at, and almost spit upon, because I said to others that smoking made me sick, with a request that they quit. And I have been politely (?) told, "If you do n't like it, sir, you can go somewhere else." Now, sir, if you, smoker, do n't like my skunk bottle, you—will abolish it. But how about the other?
A. S. PARSON.

July 17, 1872.

A HORTICULTURAL DASH.

We call the special attention of our readers to the following item in the list of premiums of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture for the eighth annual exhibition, to be held at Topeka, Sept. 16-20, 1872: "Horticultural and Floral Department—S. T. Kelsey and J. K. Hudson, superintendent. Fruit—for the greatest and best display of fruit by any state, county, township, society or individual, \$100." Had we any remarks to make, we should just say, competition is now in order. There are a great many reminiscences that rise in regard to Kansas in this question of horticulture that might be considered with no bad results. Kansas has taken a strong position on this question of horticulture, and has been well maintained by her state support to immigration, as well as to the general idea of settlement by making special points in this direction. All hail to her endeavors, surrounded by much of doubt and coldness, if not of listlessness and opposition, at first—but the state appropriation to the Philadelphia meeting called out enthusiasm and the gold medal was the crowning mark of success. Since then it has been an easy road to travel. Young soil, young trees, young operators in the field.

Emboldened by her golden success, though baffled in her last year's results, she comes out squarely and asks to be beaten. We call the attention of our horticulturists to step forward—although acting under disadvantages—and at least try. There is so much in the word and idea of try. There has been some talk over this subject, a little feeling at the conditions that weigh down some of the candidates, but our motto is, a fair field and no favor. We would hail a grand pomological tournament on Kansas or any other western soil, and call upon those who have so much at stake in the matter to come out. Let us hint that if all was known you could make the state aid you in the operation.

We look to the Platte and Missouri valley districts to come out in their might and put in a claim. The Mississippi valley has also great claims on preference. Bring all before an enlightened and unprejudiced jury, and you can well await the issue.—"Rural World."

A PLEASANT PLACE.

Porte Crayon gives a rural pen and ink portrait of things in Moorefield Valley, Virginia: "As we drive along, every thing that meets the eye betokens wealth and prosperity. The roomy and substantial homesteads stand in inclosures adorned with shade trees, fruits and flowers. Fat poultry cackle and waddle about the premises in every direction. Fat steers in the meadows wade, in lazy happiness, through grass up to their bellies. Fat sheep browse delicately on the pleasant upland pastures. Fat work-horses lounge around the plethoric barns and stables, waiting for something to do. Fat negroes drive fat oxen yoked to broad-tired carts. Fat hogs wallow in unctuous mud-holes by the road-side, while fat colts whinny listlessly after their fat mares, bestridden by the obese proprietors of these broad bottoms. The very gate-posts have an air of corpulence, being thrice the girth of those planted in thinner districts."

BIG WHEAT AND OATS.

A few bunches of wheat and oats grown in Cloud county, and forwarded to us, by H. Buckingham, Esq., of the Concordia "Empire," are suspended in the Eldridge House, and show what they are doing out west. Mr. Buckingham says the selections are only an average. If this is so—and Buck's is not a word to be disputed—then this part of Kansas had better be looking to its laurels.

THE PREMIUM LIST.

A synopsis of the premiums offered by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture will be found on the sixth page of this paper.

